



SeafoodTrade Strategy - NOAA Service Account <seafoodtrade.strategy@noaa.gov>

RFI Response: Interagency Seafood Trade Task Force -- put our oceans and coastal communities first and prohibit seafood companies from polluting our oceans

1 message

Chris Lish <lishchris@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 10:15 AM

To: "SeafoodTrade.Strategy@noaa.gov" <SeafoodTrade.Strategy@noaa.gov>

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Subject: RFI Response: Interagency Seafood Trade Task Force -- put our oceans and coastal communities first and prohibit seafood companies from polluting our oceans

To NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Chris Oliver and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries Andrew Lawler:

I strongly oppose the objectives and mandates set forth in the recent Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, including the creation of the Seafood Trade Task Force to explore new seafood export opportunities and "trade reciprocity" with other countries that have unsustainable seafood production practices.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

-- Ansel Adams

I also oppose any move to prioritize the growth of offshore aquaculture facilities in the United States. These operations pose significant threats to the environment and public health. When based in water, these operations produce water discharge full of chemicals and heavy metals, agricultural drugs and pesticides, untreated fish waste, and excess feed. Additionally, they routinely cause catastrophic fish spills, which spread disease, risk genetic degradation, and create unnecessary competition with native fish stock. The industry also harms coastal and wild-capture fishing communities.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The current administration is continuing to place the demands of big seafood and aquaculture corporations above the need to carefully study and address the many external harms that this development would bring. With regard to the seafood trade task force, rather than exploring seafood export opportunities and "trade reciprocity" with other countries like China, it should be focusing on strengthening and protecting our domestic seafood market and access to responsibly produced American seafood. The task force should prioritize items like analyzing and remedying the inaccurate calculation of American seafood that is exported for processing and re-imported for sale. It should also explore ways to incentivize domestic processing, which would help keep domestic seafood at home, and would drastically lower the carbon footprint that seafood currently has. Finally, the task force should initiate a plan for ways to increase access to responsibly-

produced American seafood for consumers and communities that need it most, including hospitals, prisons, and schools.

“As we peer into society’s future, we—you and I, and our government—must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow.”
-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Finally, I object wholly to the appointed head of this new task force, former Maine Governor Paul LePage, who has an established history of racist and controversial remarks and policies. When all hands should be on deck to address racial injustice, it is shameful to continue putting known racists in positions of power. I implore you to immediately withdraw this appointment.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”
-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA